

REMARKS

Prior to examination of the case, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-44 be canceled without prejudice. Applicants submit herein new claims 45-75. No new matter is added. Therefore, claims 45-75 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 17-20, and 33-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,785,811 of Bihlmeyer et al. (*Bihlmeyer*). Applicants have elected to cancel these claims, rendering rejection of these claims moot.

NEW CLAIMS 45-75

Applicants submit herein claims 45-75. Applicants respectfully submit that support for these claims is found in the Specification as originally filed; thus, no new matter is added. Applicants further submit that these claims include at least one limitation not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over the cited references.


CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome, placing all claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 12, 2005



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the below date with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature: _____

Gayle Bekish

12/12/05

Date